

William S. Townsend House  
96 Delsea Drive (State Route 47)  
Dennisville  
Cape May County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-753

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE New Jersey	COUNTY Cape May	TOWN OR VICINITY Dennisville
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) William S. Townsend House		HABS NO. NJ-753
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 96 Delsea Drive (State Route 47)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1820-ca. 1845	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The house was the home of William S. Townsend, a prominent merchant, farmer, and community leader in Dennisville. Architecturally, the house is an interesting example of the Vernacular Neoclassical style. The house is part of a well-preserved complex, which includes several outbuildings.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) vernacular Neoclassical		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Frame with clapboard siding. Brick foundation.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Irregular plan, but basically T-shaped; 2-1/2 stories; 5-bay front; 1-story porches flank both sides of the northern rear; 1-story brick projection on north; gable roof.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Two gabled dormers on south front; entrance is flanked by fluted pilasters and capped by a fanlight and broken pediment; porches have decorative scroll brackets; small cross gable on east side of northern wing.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Early flooring, mouldings, fireplace surrounds and other wood trim; large kitchen fireplace with bake oven; several rooms have exposed beams and posts.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Northern wing dates to ca. 1820. Ca. 1835, the eastern 3 bays of the southern wing and the eastern porch were added. Ca. 1845, the remainder of the southern wing and the western porch were added.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) "William S. Townsend House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1983.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null	DATE 6/20/84	